

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

CLEVELAND 6. OHIO

TELEPHONE: GARFIELD 1-7340

FOR RELEASE

The Cleveland Museum of Art on Saturday May 7 at 1:30 p.m., Robert Flaherty's last film, "Louisiana Story," will be shown for young people. On the following Sunday, May 8 at 3:00 p.m., the Museum will again present this outstanding film for both children and adults. Produced and directed by Flaherty for the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, "Louisiana Story" not only won recognition at the Edinburgh Film Festival in 1948 but also received the British Film Academy's Award for the best documentary film of that year.

Years before, when Flaherty saw in Britain the story of craftsmanship, he filmed "Industrial Britain." Now, in "Louisiana Story," he portrays his concept of the particular brand of American craftsmanship. "We lead the world in oil not because we have more of it than others, but because our way of life fosters the ingenuity that can draw it up from where it lies, miles beneath us."

In producing a movie Flaherty constantly strives to capture the humanity common to all peoples - the harmony and patterns underlying change. Usually when he films primitive peoples, therefore, he seeks to record and preserve the ancient culture patterns before they are decomposed by alien influences. In "Louisiana Story," however, the approach of industry was a much more gentle impact - an impact not greatly disturbing to the harmony between land and people.

The huge oil derrick, coming and going the bayous of the Louisiana Cajun country, leaves a wider horizon, but does not completely undermine the life of the natives. The beneficent monster is revealed to us through the fresh morning eyes of a Cajun boy. In this way we see the derrick and its effects with the pure curiosity of youth, untarnished by adult familiarity with modern machinery.